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INDIANA JONES™
AND THE IRON PHOENIX

CHAPTER ONE

Joe Pinney, Hal Barwood,
Bill Stoneham, & Aric Wilmunder
of LucasArts Entertainment Company • story
Lee Marrs • comics adaptation script
Leo Durañona • art
Perry McNamee • colors
Dave Dorman • cover art

Teena Gores • publication design
Bob Cooper, Edward Martin III,
Dan Thorsland, & Ryder Windham • edits

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Bill Stoneham & Lucy Wilson, LucasArts
coherence coordination

Dr. Gerald D. Feldman
History of 20th-century Germany, UC-Berkeley
postwar Germany

Professor Elizabeth Siekhaus
Mills College, Oakland, CA
German language

Dr. Etienne Narsan
Tibetian customs

Stephanie Arlen
transcription

Mike Richardson • publisher
Neil Hankerson • executive vice president
David Scroggy • vice president of publishing
Lou Bank • vice president of sales & marketing
Andy Karabatsos • vice president of finance
Mark Anderson • general counsel
Diana Schutz • editor in chief
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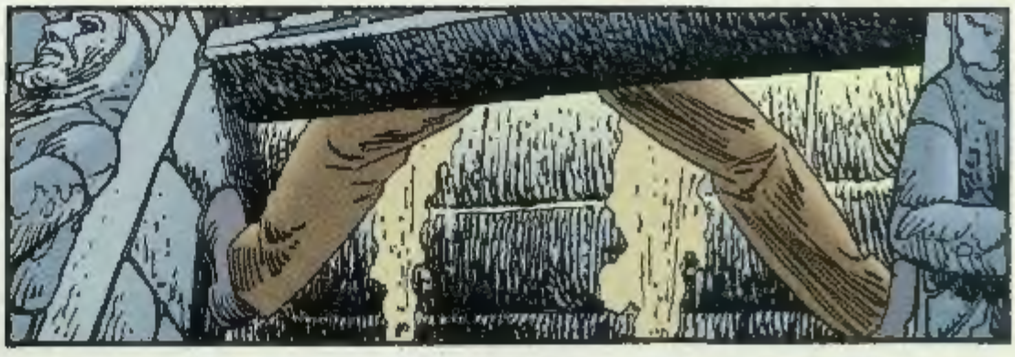

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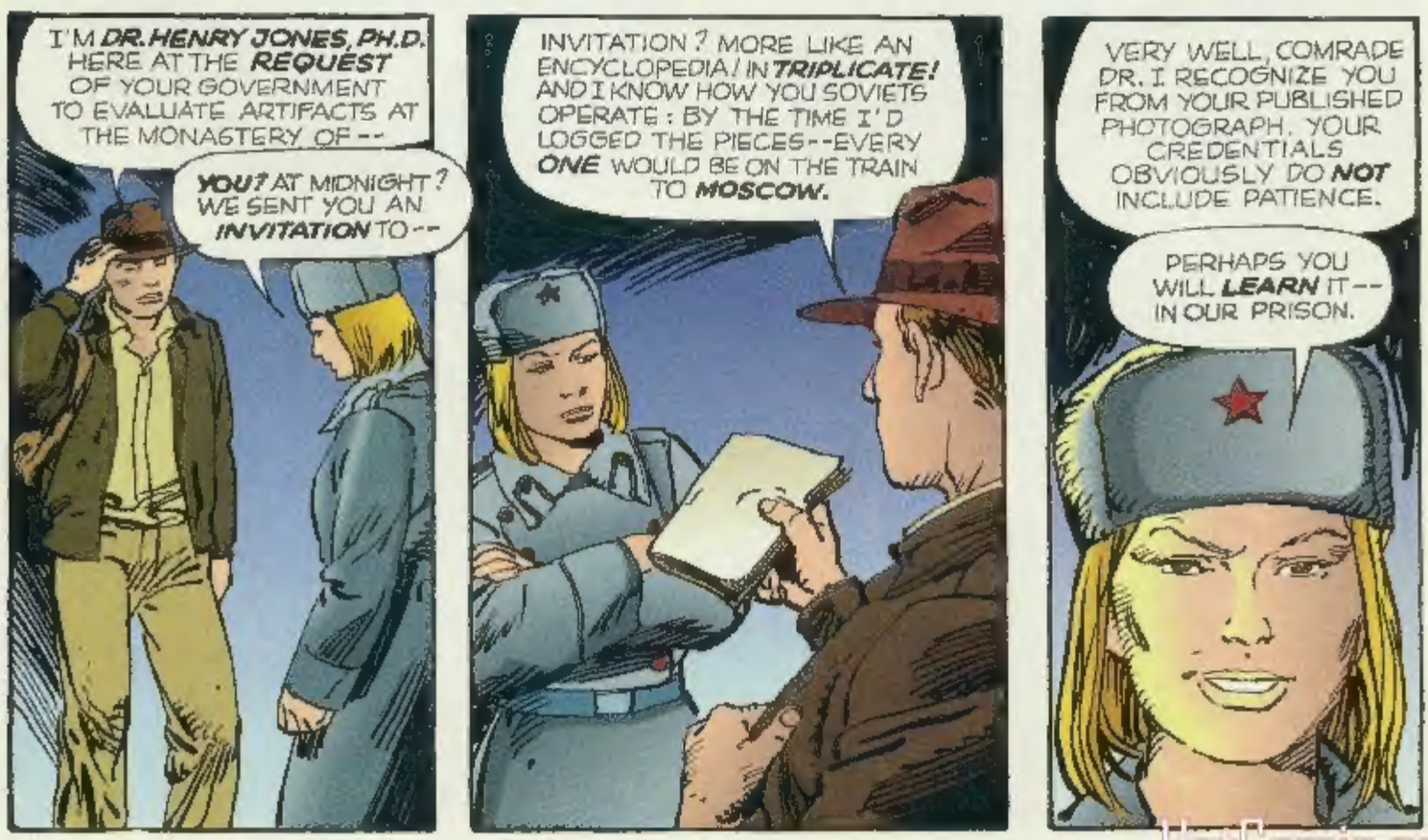
NOOOO...
VROOOM!
SCCRKEEE...
OKAY, OKAY. STAY CALM. I JUST GOT LOST VISITING YOUR LOVELY SECTOR, AND...
ATTENTION! COMRADE MAJOR!
EXCELLENT! ANOTHER NAZI THIEF! AH, THESE ARTIFACTS ARE HONEY TO FASCIST BEES.
NAZI THIEF?!


I'M DR. HENRY JONES, PH.D. HERE AT THE REQUEST OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO EVALUATE ARTIFACTS AT THE MONASTERY OF --
YOU? AT MIDNIGHT? WE SENT YOU AN INVITATION TO --
INVITATION? MORE LIKE AN ENCYCLOPEDIA! IN TRIPLICATE! AND I KNOW HOW YOU SOVIETS OPERATE: BY THE TIME I'D LOGGED THE PIECES--EVERY ONE WOULD BE ON THE TRAIN TO MOSCOW.
VERY WELL, COMRADE DR. I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM YOUR PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPH. YOUR CREDENTIALS OBVIOUSLY DO NOT INCLUDE PATIENCE.
PERHAPS YOU WILL LEARN IT -- IN OUR PRISON.

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MISHA, WE'LL PUT WHATEVER THE AMERICAN HAS FOUND IN THE STOREROOM WITH THE REST OF THE ARTIFACTS.
YES, COMRADE MAJOR.
CLAVICULA SOLOMONIS!
WHAT? YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, YOU SLIMY PIG? IS THIS WHAT JÄGER SENT YOU FOR?!!
TAKE HIM TO THE INTERROGATION ROOM.
YOU'LL LEARN NOTHING! MY MASTER IS THE GENIUS! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH HIM, STUPID SLAV! NEVER.
HOURS LATER.
UUHFF!
PAH! THEY LEARN NOTHING FROM ME.
OF COURSE, BUDDY. BECAUSE YOU KNOW NOTHING. WHY WOULD YOUR BOSS TRUST YOU?
I AM DOCTOR JÄGER'S MOST TRUSTED AIDE! I KNOW THAT THE SCROLL IS THE KEY TO THE KEY. I KNOW THAT THE TRUE STORY IS IN DE GROOT'S MARGINS...
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BUT THEY CAN DO NOTHING WITH THIS. NEITHER CAN YOU, MONGREL DOG. GO BACK TO YOUR BOOGIE-WOOGIE, AMERICAN.
BUT DON'T YOU--
SILENCE!
NEAR DAWN...
KOFF! KOFF! UNNN...
UNN... MEDICINE... HELP! AHH...
WOK!
YOU MUST LET ME GO TOO, AMERICAN. MY MASTER CAN MAKE YOU RICH!
YOU'RE STUCK, BUSTER, WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE UPTO--IT'S NO GOOD.
COMRADE CORPORAL! I LOST THAT WRESTLING BET--MISHA SAYS I MUST TAKE OVER YOUR SHIFT.
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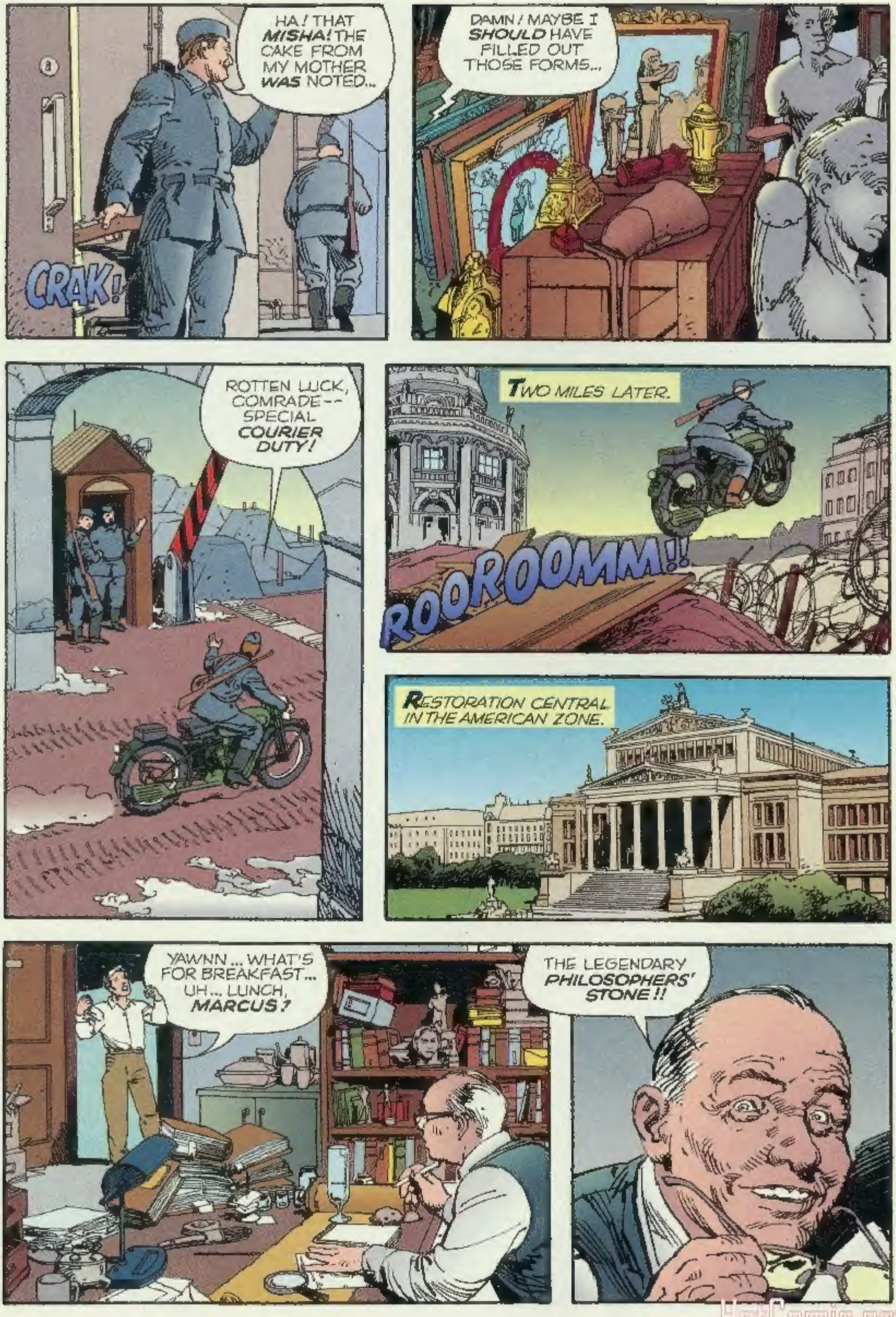
HA! THAT MISHA! THE CAKE FROM MY MOTHER WAS NOTED..
CRAK!
DAMN! MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE FILLED OUT THOSE FORMS...
ROTTEN LUCK, COMRADE-- SPECIAL COURIER DUTY!
TWO MILES LATER.
ROOROOMM!!
RESTORATION CENTRAL IN THE AMERICAN ZONE.
YAWNN... WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST... UH... LUNCH, MARCUS?
THE LEGENDARY PHILOSOPHERS' STONE!!

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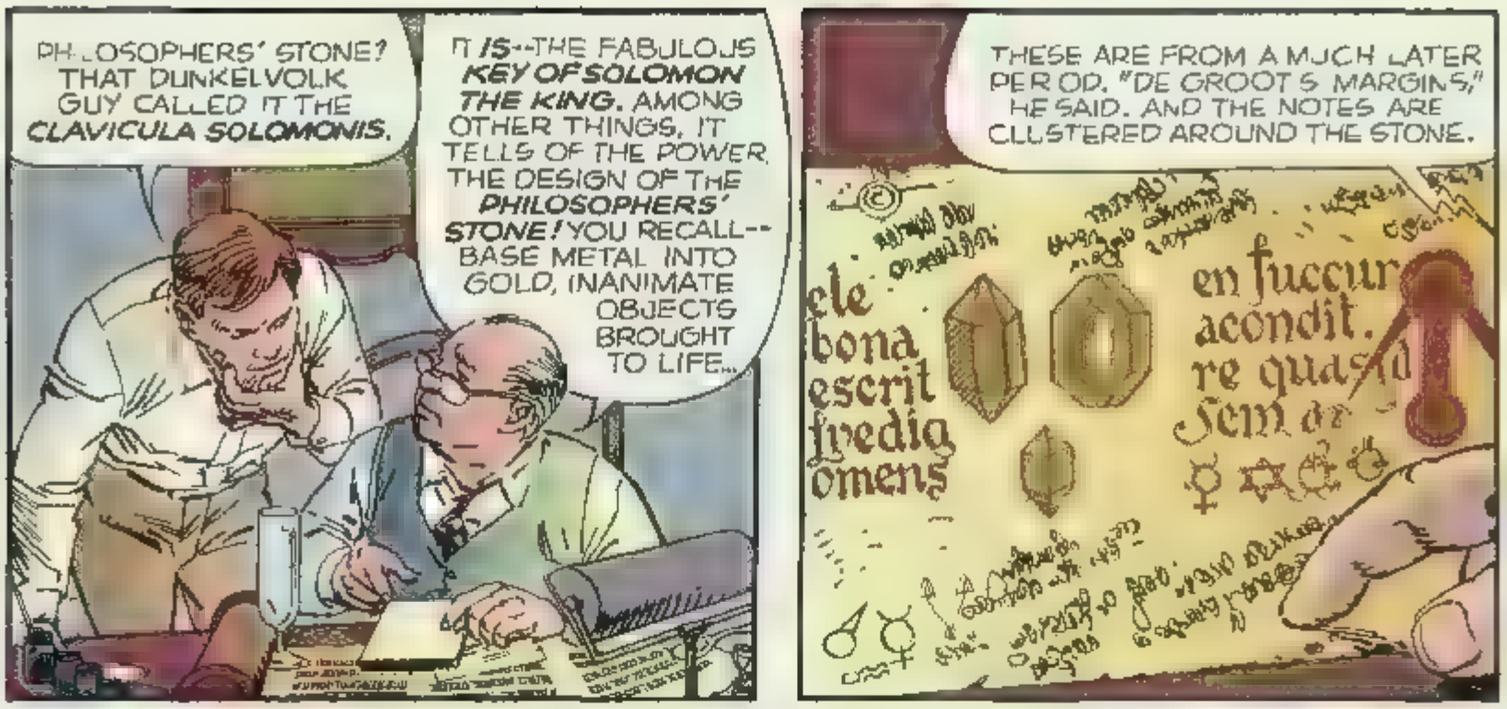
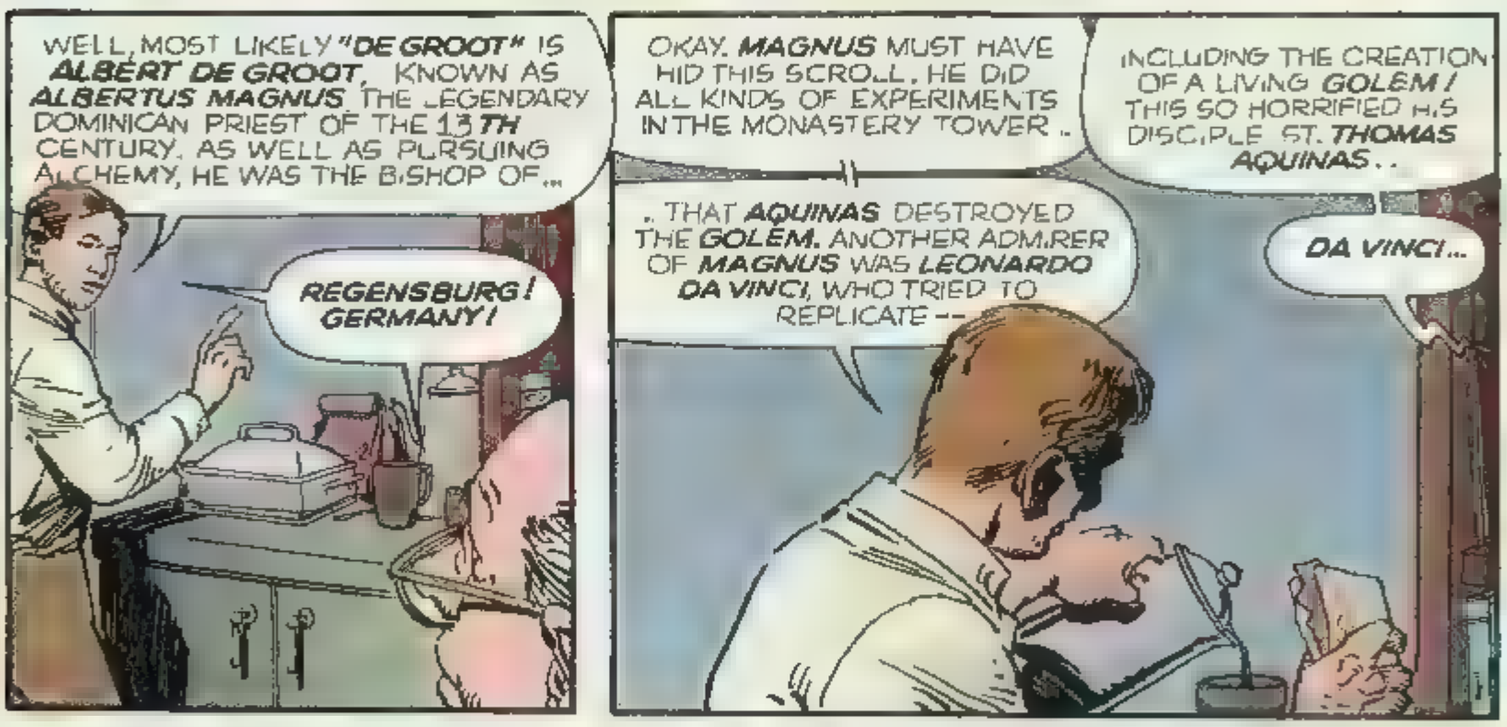
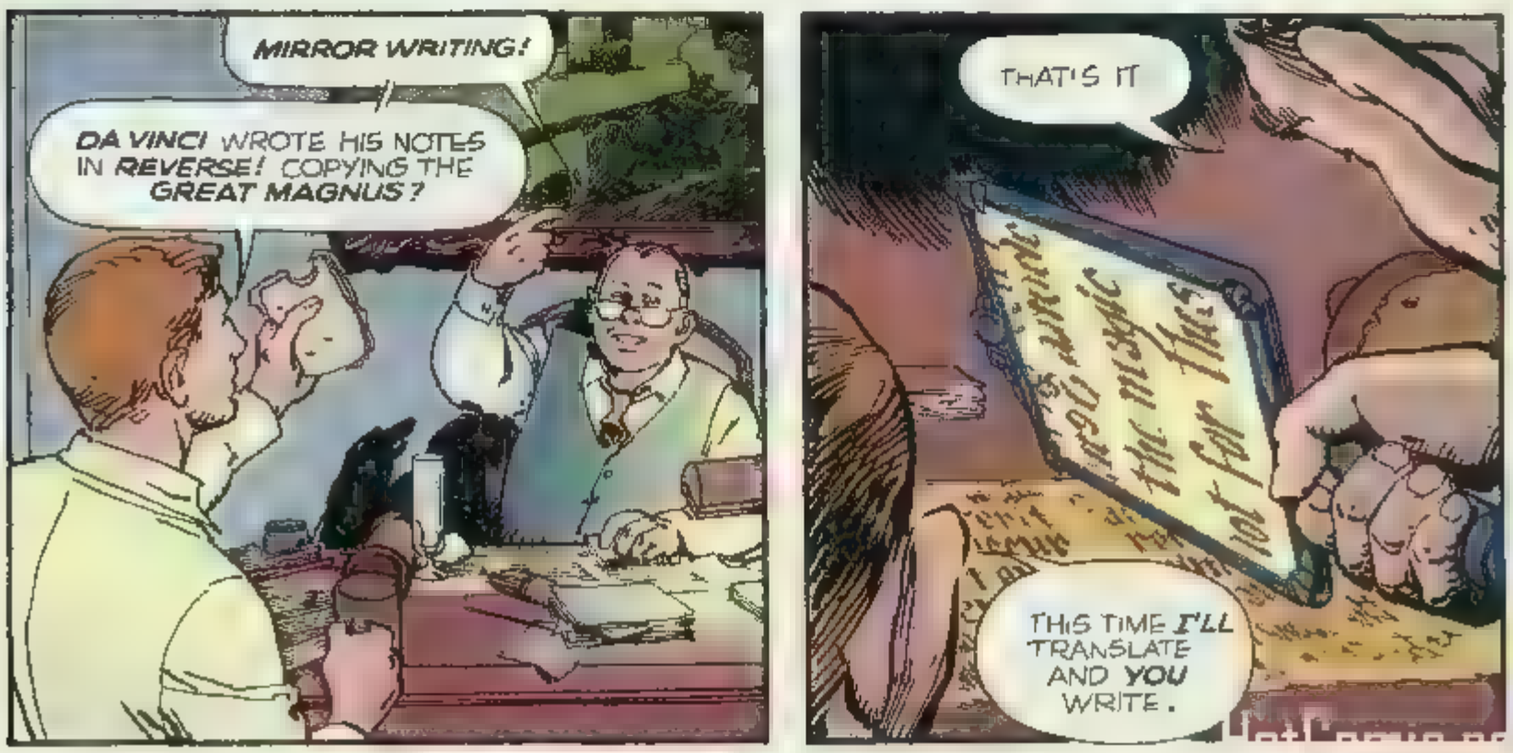

PHILOSOPHERS' STONE? THAT DUNKELVOLK GUY CALLED IT THE CLAVICULA SOLOMONIS.
IT IS--THE FABULOUS KEY OF SOLOMON THE KING. AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT TELLS OF THE POWER, THE DESIGN OF THE PHILOSOPHERS' STONE! YOU RECALL-- BASE METAL INTO GOLD, INANIMATE OBJECTS BROUGHT TO LIFE..
THESE ARE FROM A MUCH LATER PERIOD. "DE GROOT'S MARGINS," HE SAID. AND THE NOTES ARE CLUSTERED AROUND THE STONE.
ele
bona
escrit
fredia
omens
en fuccur
acondit.
re quasi
Sem ar


WELL, MOST LIKELY "DE GROOT" IS ALBERT DE GROOT, KNOWN AS ALBERTUS MAGNUS. THE LEGENDARY DOMINICAN PRIEST OF THE 13TH CENTURY. AS WELL AS PURSUING ALCHEMY, HE WAS THE BISHOP OF...
REGENSBURG! GERMANY!
OKAY. MAGNUS MUST HAVE HID THIS SCROLL. HE DID ALL KINDS OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE MONASTERY TOWER..
INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A LIVING GOLEM! THIS SO HORRIFIED HIS DISCIPLE ST. THOMAS AQUINAS..
..THAT AQUINAS DESTROYED THE GOLEM. ANOTHER ADMIRER OF MAGNUS WAS LEONARDO DA VINCI, WHO TRIED TO REPLICATE --
DA VINCI...


MIRROR WRITING!
DA VINCI WROTE HIS NOTES IN REVERSE! COPYING THE GREAT MAGNUS?
THAT'S IT
THIS TIME I'LL TRANSLATE AND YOU WRITE.

YOUR HANDWRITING IS **WORSE** THAN **MAGNUS'** CODE...

HA! LET'S START FROM THE TOP ONCE MORE.

"THAT MY ACTIONS MEET WITH HEAVEN'S PLAN, I CAN ONLY PRAY. THE COURSE OF THE STONE'S FATE I DO INSCRIBE HERE FOR SAFETY'S SAKE."

AHEM. "THIS DAY FROM MY LONGEST JOURNEY HAVE I RETURNED."

"THE HEARTFELT DECLARATIONS OF MY DEVOTED DISCIPLE **THOMAS** HAVING PERSUADED ME OF MY GRIEVOUS **ERRORS**, HIS DESTRUCTION OF THE **HOMUNCULUS** I WELCOMED."

"HOWEVER, HAVING CONSIDERED HIS WELL-FOUNDED FEARS I COULD **NOT** COUNTENANCE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MIGHTY STONE ENTIRE."

"I SET MY PENANCE TO **GUARANTEE** THE PREVENTION OF THE STONE'S MISUSE.

"THE ECCLESIASTICAL SITES HAVING BEEN CHOSEN WITH GREAT CARE I SET FORTH TO PLANT THE **THREE PARTS OF THE MIGHTY STONE** TO THE **FARTHEST** GARDENS OF CHRISTENDOM--AND BEYOND."

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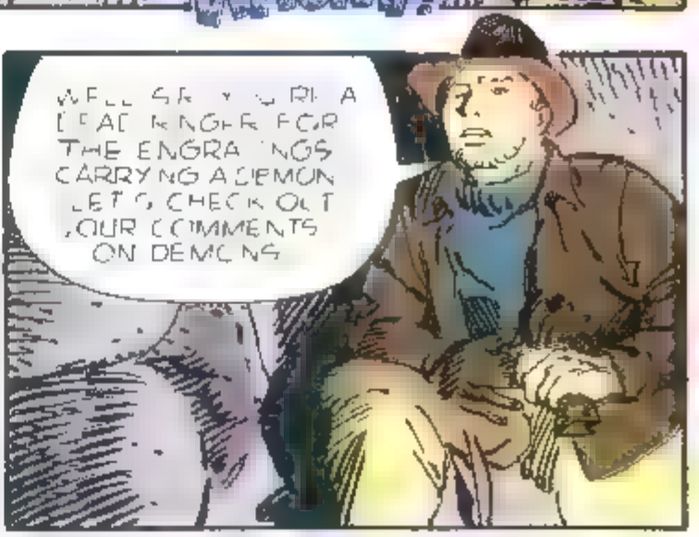
WAIT, WAIT. DIDN'T WE WORK OUT WHERE THOSE CHURCHES ARE?
UH... KIEV, THAT COASTAL VILLAGE IN IRELAND, AND... UH.. TIBET
OH, SO NOW YOU'RE OFF AGAIN EH? LEAVING ME TO CATALOGUE ALL THIS! DAMNED CLERKING . ALL THE REAL RESEARCH ..
MARCUS, YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE TRUE SCHOLAR, BESIDES, YOU HATE SNOW
YES, HE...O. OH ENGLISH UM . YES, NO, HE ISN'T HERE... DR. JONES' COUSIN?! HOW DID YOU GET --
WHY YES I RECALL INDY MENTIONING HIS NANNY WHO... MY GOODNESS, WHAT A MIX-UP!
QUICK MISHA- PACK THE FIELD GEAR!
MANY FROZEN KILOMETERS LATER--KIEV

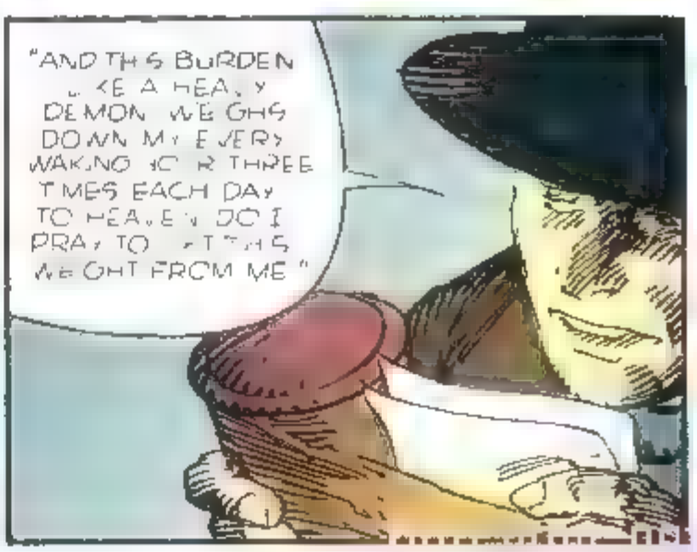
. AND THIS CERTIFICATION STAMP IS STILL . . WET
I RAN ALL THE WAY OVER FROM PARTY HEADQUARTERS COMRADE BABUSKAYA.
NO PHOTOGRAPHS
NO, COMRADE CARETAKER.
NO TOUCHING OF ANYTHING.
OH . . CERTAINLY NOT, COMRADE
AHH.. I'M FEELING A FROZEN BREEZE HERE
PTHAH! ICY COBWEBS -- MY FAVORITE . .

AHH.

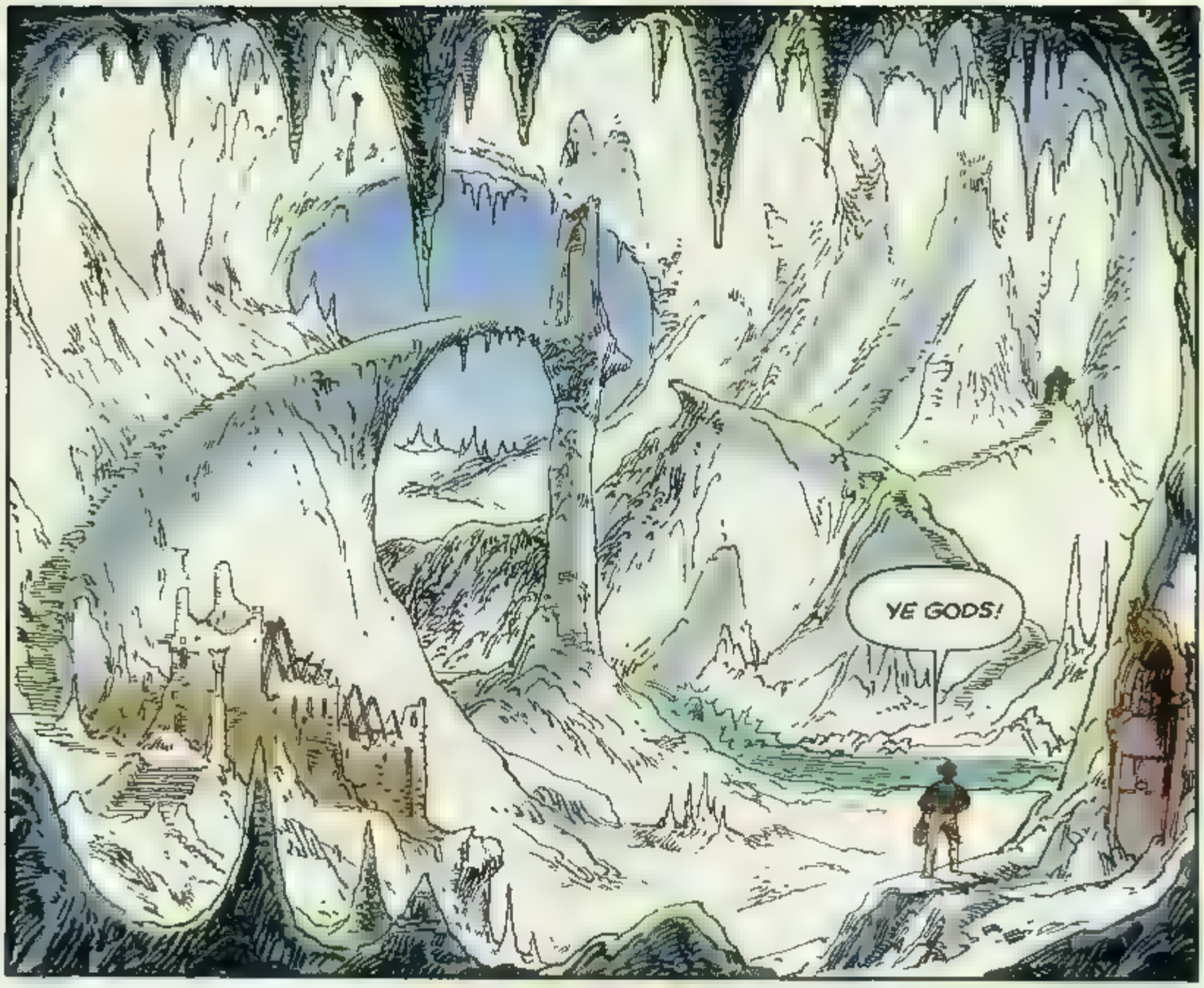
WHUMP!

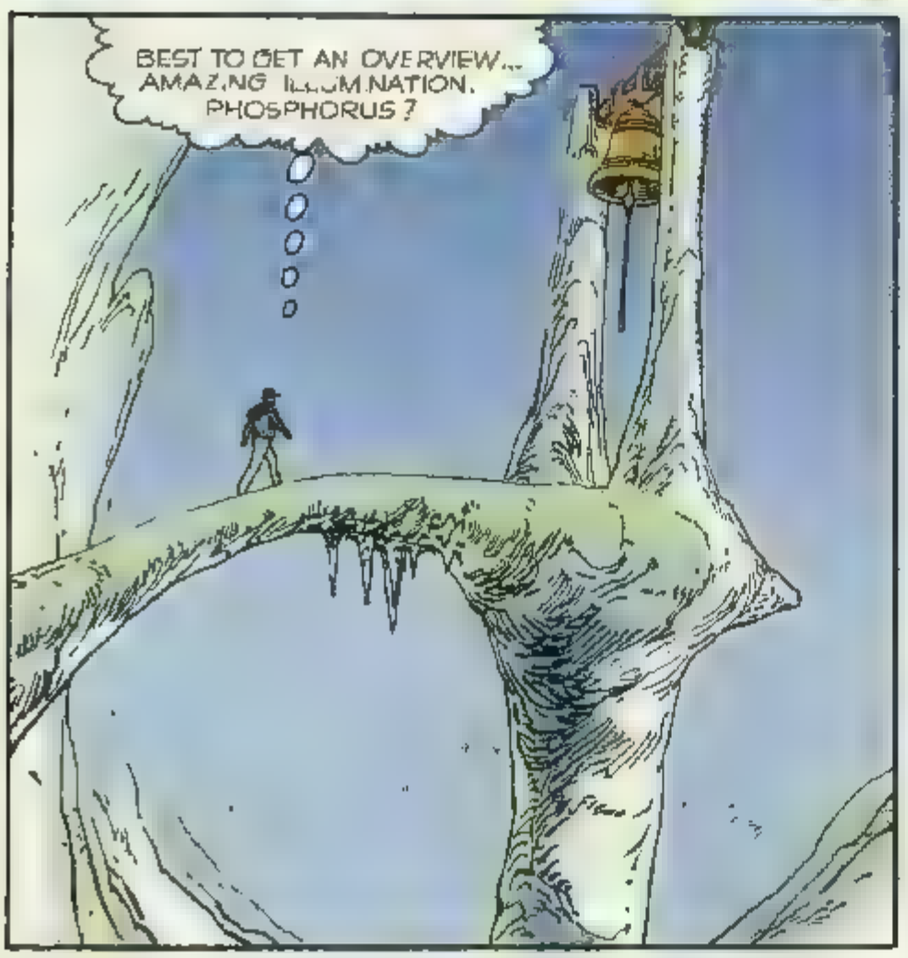
BINGO BISHOP MAGNUS, I PRESUME

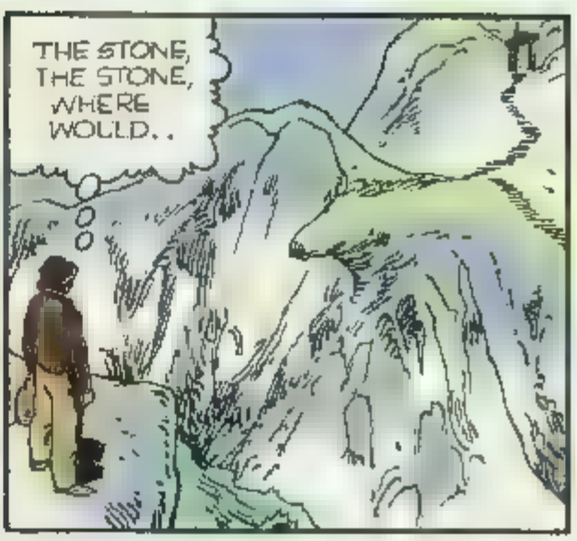

WELL SIR YOU'RE A LITTLE LONGER FOR THE ENGRAVINGS CARRYING A DEMON LET'S CHECK OUT YOUR COMMENTS ON DEMONS

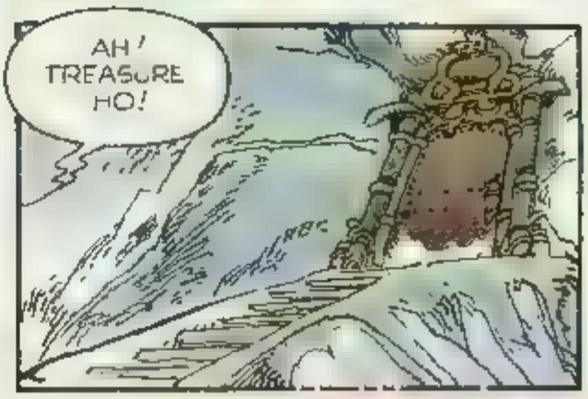

"AND THIS BURDEN LIKE A HEAVY DEMON WEIGHS DOWN MY EVERY WAKING HOUR THREE TIMES EACH DAY TO HEAVEN DO I PRAY TO GET THIS WEIGHT FROM ME"

UNNNHH...
MAYBE TILTING-- YES! ONCE TWICE
THRI- IIEE!
SCCCRRAAA...
BBRRR. WELL AT LEAST I CAN LIGHT MY FROZEN WAY MAY BE IN A HURRY ON MY RETURN..


YE GODS!


BEST TO GET AN OVERVIEW... AMAZING ILLUMINATION. PHOSPHORUS?


THE STONE, THE STONE, WHERE WOULD..


AH! TREASURE HO!

LESSEE ... NO BRIDGE ACROSS. I COULD RING THE BELL AND DISLODGE ICE *INTO* THE RIVER, THEN LEAP ACROSS THE FLOES ... UMM.

SURE, FELLAH. WHEN YOU WERE EIGHTEEN -- MAYBE.

BBWHONG!

OOWFF!
THUUSH!

DAMN! A WATER LOCK!

I *HATE* THE MEDEVAL MIND! DAMN FRATERNITY PRANKS!

SEVERAL RETURN TRIPS TO THE RIVER LATER.
C'MON LET THIS BE...
CLICK!
GOOD GRIEF!
BASE METAL TURNED TO GOLD. SOMEONE WENT CRAZY WITH THE STONE'S POWER SOMEONE WHO WAS LOCKED IN.
KOFF KOFF
DAMN! THE KEEPER!
LOOKS LIKE YOU FAILED IN MAGNUS' TRUST, ABBOT

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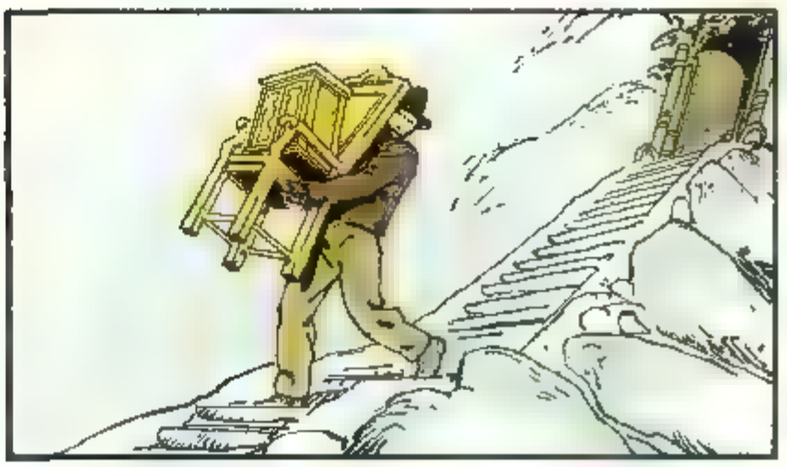
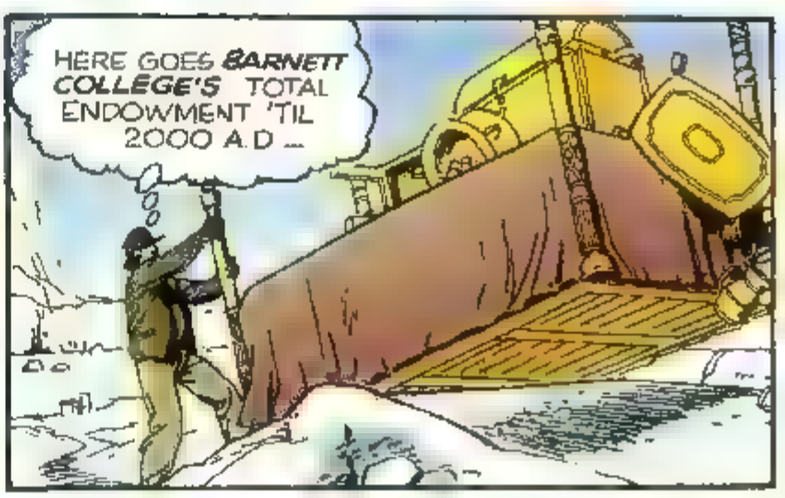
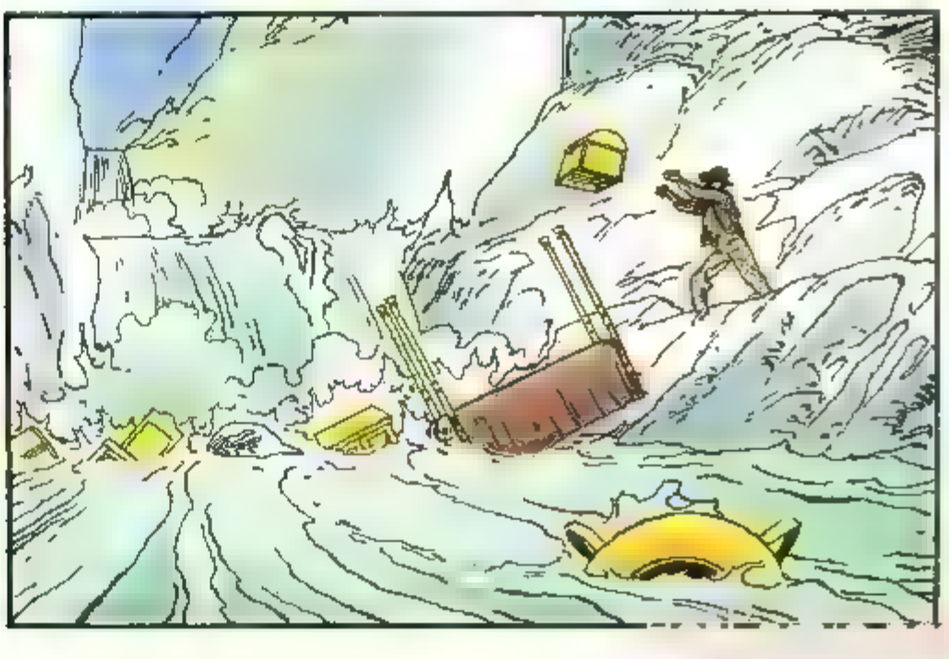
EVEN LATER.
WELL, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT THAN THE WAY I CAME.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE




HERE GOES BARNETT COLLEGE'S TOTAL ENDOWMENT 'TIL 2000 A.D ...

YEP I MAY QUALIFY FOR THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF BEAVERS.



I THINK I CAN I THINK I CAN
I-IIIIIEE...
OOOFF.
SPLOOSH!
YAHH!!
G-GOT TO G GET OUT OF THIS FREEZER F-F-FAST!

..YES, COMRADE BABUSKAYA, YOU WERE QUITE CORRECT IN NOTIFYING HEADQUARTERS. LOSING A VISITOR CAN BE VERY SERIOUS
DAMN! THAT'S COMRADE MAJOR LEGS.
EXCUSE ME, YOUR SAINTLINESS
HIS EYES WERE SO CLOSE TOGETHER - AND SHIFTY! I KNEW--
KKKKREEASH
OoooOOoooWWW!
THIS WAY.
HELP! HELP! HEL--HEY! OVER HERE
SON OF A ROTTED SEA TURTLE!
BOY, GOSH, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, COMRADE MAJOR! HERE I'D LOCATED THIS VALUABLE ALBERTUS MAGNUS STATUE WITH THE SCROLL, AND NOW IT'S LOST IN THIS CAVE IN!

SCROLL IS N HERE DR **JONES**?

THAT'S HOW I LOCATED THE **STATUE** -READ THE SCROLL. YES MA AM

DIG IT OUT! LOOK FOR HIS CARRYSACK. **CAREFULLY.**

WELL, DR **JONES**, SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU IN CUSTODY **AGAIN.**

CUSTODY?! JUST BECAUSE I... UH **BORROWED** THE SCROLL FOR--

YOUR APPROPRIATION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC'S RELICS IS **ANOTHER** MATTER I SPEAK OF YOUR VILLAINOUS TREACHERY AS A **SECRET NAZI!**

WWWHAT?!! ME? LOOK LADY--

YOU SNEAK INTO MONASTERY **JUST** AS **CAPTURED NAZI HENCHMAN DID.** YOU **RELEASE THIS NAZI** FROM OUR PRISON AND ESCAPE WHETHER **YOU** OR **DUNKEL VOLK** KILLED YOUNG GUARD DOESN'T--

NO I **DIDN'T** RELEASE THAT GOON AND I KNOW **NOTHING** ABOUT A DEAD GUARD. I LEFT THAT GUY BOUND AND GAGGED IN MY CELL.

HMM. IT IS TRUE THAT WHEN, AS SECURITY LIAISON, I CLEARED YOUR RECORD FOR **ARTIFACTS EVALUATION COMMISSION,** THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF YOUR **AVID OPPOSITION** IN PAST DECADES TO **THE THIRD REICH**...

UNNH!

THUD!

KOFF KOFF! DAMN STRAIGHT, COMRADE MAJOR

ANYTHING YET, **MISHA?**

NO, COMRADE MAJOR IT'S VERY DARK

AND COMRADE MAJOR THAT'S WHAT **I'M** IN: THE DARK WHAT DOES YOUR **UNIT** HAVE TO DO WITH RELICS **AND** NAZIS?

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NOT THAT IT IS **YOUR** BUSINESS, DR **JONES,** BUT I AM **MAJOR NADIA KIROV,** SOVIET SECURITY SPECIALIST ASSIGNED TO COORDINATE ALL EFFORTS TO EVALUATE AND RESCUE PRICELESS ARTIFACTS IN FORMER FASCIST TERRITORIES WHETHER NATIVE OR LOOTED

FINE FINE

YOUR PRESENCE IN **BERLIN** WAS THOUGHT BY COMMANDANT TO BE OPPORTUNE **GIFT**- "THE GREAT **JONES** COULD BE OF **SUCH** HELP! HA! YOU ARROGANT, BLUNDERING BOURGEOIS!

SERGEI! IVAN!

BUT BUT...

YOU HAVE INTERFERED **ENOUGH.** YOU WILL BE ESCORTED **OUT** OF THE MOTHERLAND

TAKE DOCTOR **JONES** BACK TO **THE BERLIN AMERICAN SECTOR COUNSEL** ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE TRAIN! CODE-BLACK PRIORITY.

COMRADE **NADIA!** YOU LET HIM GO? **YOU TRUST HIM?!!**

CERTAINLY! **MISHA. JONES** HAS A **NOSE** FOR THESE RELICS. **JÄGER LUSTS** FOR THESE THINGS I TRUST **JONES** TO BE THE **PERFECT NAZI BAIT.**

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The Dark Empire is back!

STAR WARS

DARK EMPIRE II

A six-issue miniseries by Tom Veitch and Cam Kennedy.

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THE ULTIMATE KILLING MACHINE HAS MET ITS MATCH!

A.L.I.E.N.S
BERSERKER

Written by John Wagner • Illustrated by Paul Mendoza and Andy Mushynsky • Featuring painted covers by Kilian Plunkett

GET READY TO ROCK!

Four-issue series beginning in January 1995

DARK HORSE COMICS

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HAVE YOU READ A GOOD MOVIE LATELY?

STAR WARS

ALIENS™

PREDATOR™

INDIANA JONES

IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007

THE Shadow™

DARK HORSE COMICS...

NOW PLAYING AT A COMIC SHOP NEAR YOU!

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ONE BAD MOTHER

In the clutches of the Mother Queen, Caryn's torn between her own fate, and that of Big Mama's!

ALIENS

THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES

PREDATOR™

ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #9

Written by Christopher Claremont, Illustrated by Eduarda Barreto, Painted cover by John Bolton

The nightmare continues...

DARK HORSE COMICS

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IAN FLEMING'S

JAMES BOND 007

THE QUASIMODO GAMBIT

QUASIMODO THINKS GOD'S ON HIS SIDE...
BOND'S OUT TO PROVE HIM WRONG.

007 series by Don McGregor and Gary Caldwell
painted covers by Christopher Moeller

inted pages of 007 action coming in February

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PRESENT THE LONG-AWAITED MINISERIES

BATMAN VERSUS PREDATOR II

BLOODMATCH

BY DOUG MOENCH, PAUL GULACY AND TERRY AUSTIN

THIS TIME, EVEN THE HUNTERS AREN'T SAFE.

Beginning in October

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MATT WAGNER'S

GRENDEL™

TALES

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

When you come home to find a bunch of punks making a mess of things–

It's time to clean house.

Written and illustrated by Pat McEown and Dave Cooper

ALSO FEATURING A TALE OF

GRENDEL-PRIME

BY MATT WAGNER

DECEMBER

HOMECOMING

QUALITY
DIVERSITY
CREATIVITY

DARK HORSE COMICS

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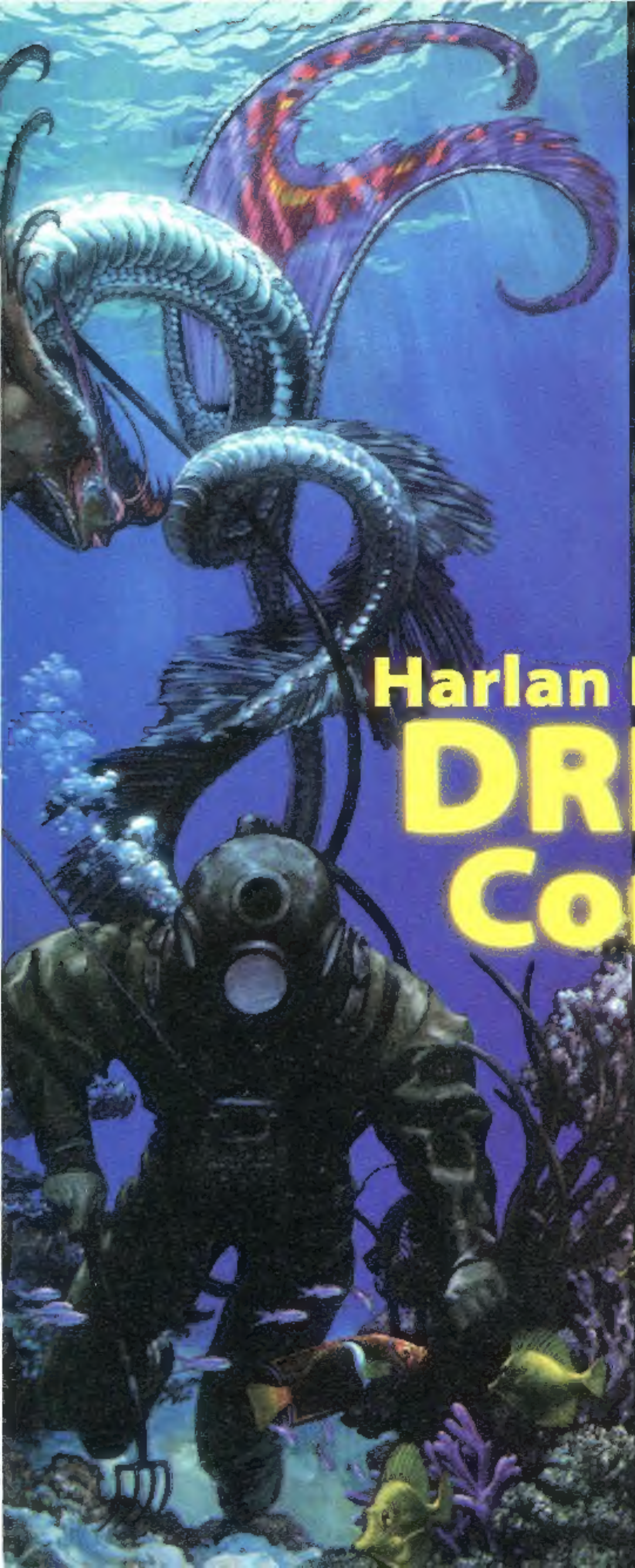

You think you know good?
You don't know good.

You know *pretty* good.
You *don't* know **great.**

Great is this book.
Not almost, not prettynearly.
Great.
Period.

Harlan Ellison's DREAM™ Corridor

You're so used to smoke up your skirt, you're gonna get **shocked** by candy-coated **lightning.**

DARK HORSE COMICS®

QUALITY
DIVERSITY
CREATIVITY

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FINISH LINE

What's shakin', toots?

I don't think he ever called me by my first name; it was always "toots" or "babe" or sometimes "doll." The man could have called me anything he liked, of course, and it wouldn't have mattered; in many ways he was as near and dear to my heart as my own father, and just like a dad, he drove me crazy, he made me proud, and he loved me in that irascible, curmudgeonly manner so characteristic of his generation of men. Just as I loved him.

What's shakin', toots?

DEC. CHECKLIST

SHIPPING DECEMBER 6

- ☐ CARAVAN KIDD PART 3 #6
- ☐ DIVISION 13 #3
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN #30: LIES #6
- ☐ RASCALS IN PARADISE #3

SHIPPING DECEMBER 13

- ☐ CLASSIC STAR WARS: THE EARLY ADVENTURES #3
- ☐ DARK HORSE INSIDER #37
- ☐ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #92
- ☐ THE DIRTY PAIR: SIM HELL (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)
- ☐ GRENDEL TALES: FOUR DEVILS, ONE HELL (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)
- ☐ HERMES VERSUS THE EYEBALL KID #1
- ☐ INDIANA JONES AND THE IRON PHOENIX #1
- ☐ INSTANT PIANO #2
- ☐ MADMAN LIMITED-EDITION COLD-CAST FIGURINE
- ☐ REBEL SWORD #3
- ☐ STAR WARS: TALES OF THE JEDI — DARK LORDS OF THE SITH, BOOK 1 #3

SHIPPING DECEMBER 20

- ☐ BATMAN VS. PREDATOR II #3
- ☐ GIVE ME LIBERTY (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)
- ☐ GRENDEL TALES: HOMECOMING #1
- ☐ JOHNNY DYNAMITE #4
- ☐ MEDAL OF HONOR #3
- ☐ SIN CITY (NEW EDITION HARDCOVER COLLECTION)
- ☐ SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR (LIMITED EDITION HARDCOVER)
- ☐ SIN CITY: THE BIG FAT KILL #2
- ☐ STAR WARS: DARK EMPIRE II #1
- ☐ TRIPLE-X #1

SHIPPING DECEMBER 27

- ☐ ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #9
- ☐ THE MACHINE #2
- ☐ OH MY GODDESS! #5
- ☐ ONE BAD RAT #3
- ☐ X #10

In 1986, Comico secured the rights to publish *Jonny Quest* comics, which I had the great pleasure of editing. I remember suggesting that we contact the creator of the original animated series that had so thrilled me as a nine-year-old girl, in the hope of having him paint a cover, perhaps. A few covers later — not to mention a poster, a short story for the first issue, and a three-issue series adapting his own classic episodes — and my lifelong love of *Jonny Quest* had grown to encompass a new love, a love for its creator, Doug Wildey. Oh, and if you didn't know it, he hated the damn dog.

The upper execs at Hanna-Barbera had forced Bandit on him, in an effort to make the show more kid-friendly. Twenty-some-odd years later, Doug had met countless people named after the show's characters — something I don't think he ever quite fully understood — and had spawned an entire generation of canines named Bandit. He *hated* that damn dog.

Doug was a curious combination of Hollywood hip and cowboy crust. The latter found expression in his *Rio* series of comics and graphic albums, the most recent of which, *Rio at Bay*, we were lucky enough to publish here at Dark Horse. His great love of the Old West was also apparent in his gallery art, grand-scale oil paintings depicting scenes from the bygone glory days of shootouts and cattle-rustling.

His Hollywood persona was immortalized as Peevy in *The Rocketeer*, by Dave Stevens. Doug posed for the character, Dave drew absolutely faithful renditions, and Doug was both proud and a little embarrassed, I think, when fans requested his autograph on the book. But I'll let Dave tell the Peevy stories. Ask him at a convention sometime; he's got a thousand of them.

What's shakin', toots?

I got the call less than 24 hours after Doug's death on October 4th of this year. I didn't sleep that night. Two days later I was on a plane for Las Vegas, where Doug had lived the last four years of his life with his wife of 40 years, Ellen. Ellen is a beautiful, tiny woman whose diminutive frame belies her incredible inner strength, and just as Doug had become a surrogate father to me in the years I'd known him, Ellen had become a surrogate mom. I flew to the funeral to give her my support during this tragic time; it should have come as no surprise that she'd be the one to support me instead.

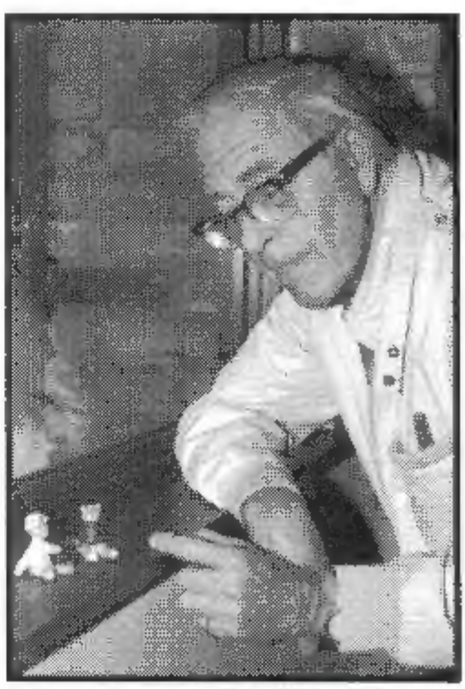
After the service, Ellen brought Dave Stevens, Bob Schreck, and me into Doug's studio room. There, on the drawing board, was an unfinished page from Doug's last *Rio* novel, which he'd been working on at the time of his death. Every bit of what I loved about Doug was on that page — his talent, his energy and enthusiasm, his *soul* — and it was unfinished. I cried like a baby, and do so even now as I write these words.

What's shakin', toots?

Ellen told me that Doug always said his life had been a party. I can't think of a better legacy for anyone to leave. Doug was 72, but the party ended too soon nonetheless, and I urge all of you to remember this bit of Wildey wisdom, especially during this holiday season with your loved ones.

Happy trails, Doug, and thanks for inviting me to your party.

— Diana Schutz
editor in chief



Doug Wildey, Dallas 1986

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